



Proposed Minutes

July 16, 2012

710 James Robertson Parkway

Andrew Johnson Tower, 1st Fl Conference Room

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Members of Council in Attendance

Paula Brownyard, Chair

Cynthia Cheshier, Vice-Chair

Kyle Hauth

Mary Johnson

Shannon Taylor

Chantal Hess-Taylor

Chip Fair

Jim Topp

Janelle Glover

Darlene Walden

Samuel Cole

Members Not in Attendance

Dawn Bradley

Catherine Knowles

Jeff Finney

Christine Lloyd-Burkes

Beulah Oldham

State Employees in Attendance

Kathleen Airhart, Deputy Commissioner

Bobbie Lussier, TDOE

Bill Wilson, Office of General Council

Allison Davey, TDOE

Nan McKerley, TDOE

Gayle Feltner, TDOE

Steve Sparks, TDOE

Karen Wilis, TDOE

Visitors in Attendance

Lori Richardson, The Arc of Tennessee

Zach Rossley, SAT 10

Emily Barton, Assessment

Deb Malone, Assessment

Welcome

Paula Brownyard, Council Chair, Began the meeting by welcoming everyone and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was accepted without changes.

Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2012 Meetings

The minutes of the April 23rd, meeting was accepted without changes.

Report from the Chair

The Council agreed to invite Commissioner Kevin Huffman to the next meeting. The November 5, 2012 meeting will take place at the Hardison Hall Auditorium, TPS Campus in Nashville. This is in the event that the Commissioner could attend.

Presenter: Shannon Taylor

Topic: Teacher Effect Data

The Advisory Council will work collaboratively with the TN DOE to ensure TEAM Teacher Evaluation rubric and the Alternative Model rubric for teachers of students with disabilities adequately reflect teacher knowledge in subject areas and responsibilities specific to teachers of special education. Dr. Airhart responded that she looks forward to working with the Advisory Council.

Presenter: Cynthia Cheshier

Topic: Report of progress with regard to assessment questions from previous AC meeting

Questions have been emailed to Zack Rossley several times with no response. Mr. Rossley will attend today's meeting. Concerns include what companies will be considered to develop K-2 assessment, instructional needs of students with disabilities, and information about the contract with Pearson.

Presenter: Steve Sparks

Topic: Letter of Determination

A copy of OSEP's letter of determination to Tennessee was provided to all present. Tennessee was identified as "needs assistance" in the area of transition.

Presenter: Gayle Feltner

Topic: Transition

To address the finding of "needs assistance" in OSEP's letter of determination, an error check will be built into EasyIEP so that LEA personnel cannot develop a draft IEP until they have printed and sent the student an invitation to the IEP meeting.

Presenters: Zach Rossley and Emily Barton
Topic: Overview of assessment developments

SAT- 10

LEAs may voluntarily participate in the SAT-10 assessment for grades 1 and 2. This is a pre- and post-test model and will likely generate value added scores. This test is norm referenced and is not common core aligned. However, while it is not a perfect solution, it is the best available option to be able to use for testing this fall.

An RFP will be issued for a K-2 assessment that is common core aligned with the intention of having it ready for the 2014-15 school year.

Discussion:

Question: There are accommodations/modifications available on the TCAP that are not available on the SAT-10. Why?

Response: Deb Malone:
SAT- 10 is a Pearson (current assessment contract) shelf product. It is norm referenced. For this reason, the only modifications/accommodations that may be used are those that were available at the time it was normed. This is the only way to yield a valid score.

Question: Why was the SAT-10 chosen? The Advisory Council has concerns about how modifications/accommodations will be addressed.

Response: Deb Malone:
The state has an existing contract with Pearson and this is the product that Pearson had available in 2008. This contract went through the long (1 ½ year) RFP process. In order to have an assessment ready for the fall, the SAT-10 product must be used.

Question: Do you anticipate being able to change the modifications/accommodations currently available?

Response: Emily Barton:
It is anticipated that this will be addressed when the RFP is issued for a common core aligned assessment. SAT-10 is a district option for participation. Common Core experts state that we do more of a disservice by not having any information about early math and early reading than we are by having a slightly imperfect read on that. They have advised that it is best to move forward with an off the shelf product until we can make a stronger option available. SAT-10 does not have impact at the student level and is not included in their grades. There are exclusions for students with IEPs because they are

not included in value added.

Zack Rossley:

The state is going to the legislature in January and recommending that students with Disabilities be included in value added.

Question: What is being done to find out how much companies know about assessing students with disabilities as you search for new assessment options?

Response: Currently interviewing for a special education design position to create depth of expertise within the department. The RFP that is issued will include what it will be evaluated for and will be designed to dig deeply into the information that is submitted in the proposals. The only way to have an assessment available this year for these grades is to move forward with the SAT-10 option. It is thought that this is a good option, but that care should be taken about what inferences are made because it is norm referenced.

Question: Has anyone from the Division of Special Education been involved in the interview process for the assessment position mentioned previously?

Response: Emily Barton: Kathleen Airhart

Comment: Paula Brownyard:
Who specifically from the Division of Special Education? (Kathleen serves as Deputy Commissioner for the entire department.) The Advisory Council wishes to advocate for those who Support and make decisions for students with disabilities. The Advisory Council is concerned about who from the Division of Special Education is involved as decisions are made that will impact students with disabilities.

Response: Emily Barton:
All assessment decisions include Kathleen Airhart. Involvement in other decisions varies. Regarding constructed response assessment decisions, there was not a Special education designee. However, those decisions were vetted through the Institute For Learning, which has several special education specialists on their staff.

Deb Malone:

Steve Sparks, Nan McKerley, Ann Sanders-Eakes, and Terry Long have provided names of potential applicants with special education knowledge.

Comment: Paula Brownyard:

The Advisory Council represents students with disabilities and asks that staff from the Division of Special Education be included in Department dialogue and as decisions are made. Students with disabilities are an important population in Tennessee.

Constructed Response Assessment

Accommodations will mimic those that have been used in the past. Any modifications made available in the past two years will continue to be available for use, including read aloud and extended time.

Writing Assessment

The writing assessment format is being changed to mimic the design of the PARCC (Partnership of the Assessment of Readiness of College and Career). This will be online and involve much more reading. Accommodations will be reviewed for the writing assessment and clear guidance will be provided by the department.

Presenter: Kathleen Airhart

Topic: Accountability

LEAs have been notified regarding their performance based on the waiver vs. NCLB. The waiver took LEAs from where they were and set specific goals based on this information. The average goal set for LEAs was a 3% improvement in academic achievement for ALL students and to close the achievement gap for all subgroup of students. GOAL: By the end of 5 years the gap will become closer together for all students. NOTE: 36 LEAs did not meet gap closure goals as a result of over identifying students for the MAAS assessment. The department would like to advise LEAs not to exceed the 2% cap per system.

Department Updates

Kathleen Airhart reported on Waivers District accountability of how districts have performed based on waivers vs. the old NCLB.

NCLB was on a trajectory of achievement that all districts would perform at the same exact level of achievement reaching the 100 percent proficient by 2014.

Waivers took district from where they are currently and proficient or achievement rated and set specific goal to their district. Each district on an average were to be increased by 3 percent or higher in achievement of all students regardless of where they began.

The goal is to close the achievement gap further over the next five years for various sub groups.

Announcements

New Advisory Council Members Orientation is set for Sept. 4, 2012

Special Education Annual Conference is set for March 12-14, 2013 at the Opryland Hotel.